

b) Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows. A detailed listing of all the claims that are or were in the application is provided thereafter.

--1. (Currently Amended) A domain wall displacement magneto-optical recording medium for irradiation with a light spot to form a temperature distribution therein which displaces domain walls and expands recorded domains for reproducing recorded information comprising:

a domain wall displacement layer having a Curie temperature higher than a peak temperature of said temperature distribution ~~for displacing said domain walls;~~

a recording layer for storing information; and

a switching layer arranged between said domain wall displacement layer and said recording layer and having a Curie temperature lower than those of the latter two layers,

wherein said domain wall displacement layer has a smaller domain wall coercivity than said recording layer, wherein said domain wall displacement layer, said switching layer and said recording layer are coupled by exchange coupling such that ~~magnetization of said domain wall displacement layer corresponds to the magnetization of said recording layer~~ recorded domains of said recording layer are transferred to said domain wall displacement layer at a temperature not higher than the Curie temperature of said switching layer and wherein when the domain wall displacement layer and the recording layer are coupled by exchange coupling at a temperature close to the Curie

temperature of the switching layer, the saturation magnetization of said domain wall displacement layer and the said recording layer are in opposite directions to each other.

2. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said domain wall displacement layer is formed so that its rare earth sublattice magnetization becomes dominant at and near the Curie temperature of said switching layer, while said recording layer is formed so that its transition metal sublattice magnetization becomes dominant at and near the Curie temperature of said switching layer.

3. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said domain wall displacement layer shows a compensation temperature between its own Curie temperature and the Curie temperature of said switching layer.

4. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said domain wall displacement layer is formed so that its transition metal sublattice magnetization becomes dominant at and near the Curie temperature of said switching layer, while said recording layer is formed so that its rare earth sublattice magnetization becomes dominant at and near Curie temperature of said switching layer.

5. (Original) A reproducing method to be used with a magneto-optical recording medium according to any of claims 1 through 4, said method comprising:

a step of forming a predetermined temperature distribution having a temperature zone exceeding the Curie temperature of said switching layer on said magneto-optical recording medium by means of a laser beam;

a step of breaking the exchange coupling between said domain wall displacement layer and said recording layer in a region of the temperature zone exceeding the Curie temperature of said switching layer and displacing a domain wall formed in said domain wall displacement layer toward the high temperature side along the temperature gradient of the temperature distribution; and

a step of detecting information stored in said recording layer, utilizing the laser beam reflected from said medium.--